BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - YEAR 1957.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH BRANCH

Montgomery Borough Council 1957:-

Councillor R. W. P. Humphreys; (Mayor)
Alderman Reg. Jones;
Alderman J. D. K. Lloyd;
Councillors W. H. Gornall, G. W. Jellings, E. L. Griffiths, D. P. Davies and R. B. Jones.

Town Clerk - Mr. P. E. Jones;
Medical Officer of Health - Dr. I. B. Millar;
Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector - Mr. ~~H. J. Sleigh~~. F. HUNT

To the Montgomery Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

It gives me pleasure to submit my Annual Report for 1957 which has been drawn up with due regard to the Welsh Board of Health Circular on this subject No. 1/1958 (Wales).

The Statistics show once again that the Borough had a healthy year. The excess of births over deaths almost accounts for the increase shown in the population. This rather delicate excess might eventually in about 10-15 years, bring the population once again into four-figure numbers, but then the effect of school leavers seeking employment elsewhere would prevent any further increase. One or two light industries judiciously introduced in these years would foster a real and continued growth of the Borough.

Reference is made again to the disgrace which the Borough has to suffer in its lack of a properly controlled sewage disposal works.

As 1957 was the last complete year in which Mr. Hunt served as Borough Surveyor/Public Health Inspector, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for his helpful co-operation during our time together and of wishing him a happy retirement. I must also thank him for his usual detailed preparation of part of the report.

Lastly, I am glad to acknowledge the friendly and understanding support which I receive from you Mr. Mayor, the other Council members, the Clerk and staff.

I. B. MILLAR.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

General Statistics of the Area.

Area of District	- 3390 acres.
Estimated Mid-Year Population	- 870.
Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Books)	- 314.
Rateable value at 31/12/57	- £5,594.
Sum represented by a penny rate	- £21. 10. 2d.

Over:-

Vital Statistics:

Population : The mid-1957 figure of 870 is an increase of 10 on the mid-1956 estimate.

Live Births:	Legitimate	Male	13
	"	Female	6
	Total		19

Note: Only 8 of these births (5 male, 3 female) took place in the Borough.

Crude Birth Rate: 21·8 per 1,000 total population.

Corrected Birth Rate: 23·98 per 1,000 total population (for age and sex) (compared with the provisional figure of 16·1 for England and Wales in 1957).

Still Births: NIL.

Infant Deaths: NIL.

Deaths:	Male	4
	Female	6
	Total	10.

Crude Death Rate: 11·5 per 1000 total population.

Corrected Death Rate: 9·55 per 1000 total population (compared with a provisional figure of 11·5 for England and Wales in 1957).

Causes of Death by Sex and Age:

Malignant neoplasm stomach	:	Female, 1 (aged 80-90 years).
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	:	Females, 3 (one aged 70-80 years and two aged 80-90 years).
Coronary Disease	:	Male, 1 (aged 40-50 years).
Other heart disease	:	Males, 2 (aged 50-60 years and 70-80)
Bronchitis	:	Female,1 (aged 70-80 years).
Congenital malformations	:	Female,1 (aged 13 months).
Suicide	:	Male, 1 (aged 70-80 years).

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER - Again there was an abundance of water for all purposes, and although an appeal was made during the summer months for economy in the use of water, no special measures were necessary to obtain this. During the year, twenty-one meters were installed at premises where supplies apart from domestic water were used, and this at once resulted in a reduction in the quantity consumed. These premises were mainly agricultural, but included a school and school canteen, a grass drying plant, and property on which a slaughter house is situated.

In addition, a new three inch asbestos cement water main was laid from the bottom reservoir, through Broad Street, to the bottom of Church Bank, to replace a worn out three inch cast iron pipe which had been in use for seventy years, was pin-holed in a number of places, had caused a good deal of trouble through bursts, and allowed considerable quantities of water to run to waste. Additional sluice valves were provided on this new main, and it is now possible to cut off parts of the town as and when required.

During the year, water was laid on to four more dwellings where structural improvements had been carried out.

(2) (a) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - The work of providing an urgently needed modern sewage disposal system in this town is still held up. A public Enquiry regarding this was held a very long time ago, but in spite of this, and the fact that it is well known, not only locally, but by the Ministry Department, that crude sewage is discharged untreated in any way into two open ditches, one at each end of the town, nothing whatever is done. Year after year, a report on these lines is made. This is a serious matter, not only because a herd of T.T. cattle have to drink from the stream into which this filth is discharged, but because of the obvious risk of insect-borne disease.

(b) RIVER AND STREAMS - Apart from the report above under "Drainage and Sewerage" every effort is made to prevent the pollution of Rivers and Streams.

The Tan-y-mur Council housing estate has its own Sewage Treatment Plant and a good quality effluent is discharged into a running stream.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - During the year, four conversions were made from Conservancy to Water Carriage Syatem, as four dwellings were structurally improved. Owing to lack of sewage disposal facilities, conversions are not encouraged.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING - No change. Domestic refuse is collected once a fortnight, and so is night soil from such premises where the conservancy system is still in use. Disinfections carried out during the year - one.

(5) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA - The District has been inspected systematically and at intervals as required, and where defects have been found, these have been remedied by informal action.

(6) SHOPS AND OFFICES - All shops and offices have been inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936. All were in satisfactory condition, and no action was necessary.

(7) CAMPING SITES - No sites were in use for camping purposes during the year.

(8) SMOKE ABATEMENT - Fortunately, nuisance from smoke does not occur in the District, so no action was necessary during the year.

(9) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - There are none in the area.

(10) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - The District is fortunate, as not a single dwelling is infested with bed bugs.

SECTION D - HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	11
	(b) NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE	15
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	NIL
	(b) NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE	NIL
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	NIL
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	7

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - Nil.

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
(11) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - Nil.
(11) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - Nil.
(11) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Order were determined, the tenement or underground room having been made fit - Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART 1V - OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year - Nil.
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year - Nil.
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year - Nil.
(d) Cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding - Nil.

NEW HOUSES.
During the year no new houses were built by private enterprise.
No Council houses were built during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1949 - PART 11 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of dwellings brought up to standard during the year - Two.
Number of dwellings in respect of which schemes have been approved during the year - Five.
Number of dwellings in respect of which plans and particulars are awaited. - One.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY - The duties of supervising methods of milk production at farms and the inspection of premises used in connection with milk production are carried out by the County Agricultural Executive Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. However, so far as distribution by retailers is concerned, supervision is exercised, and there were no complaints during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS - There is only one slaughter house in the District, and this is kept in a satisfactory condition. All shops and vans from which food is sold or distributed, are regularly visited, and during the year all were kept in a cleanly state.

CARCASES INSPECTED FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1957.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
1. Number killed.	254	Nil	3	1513	269	Nil
2. Number inspected.	172	Nil	3	1242	205	Nil
3. All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis.						
(a) Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	26	Nil	Nil	53	Nil	Nil
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis.	15·10	Nil	Nil	4·26	Nil	Nil
4. Tuberculosis only.						
(a) Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Cysticercosis.						
(a) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No meat marking scheme under Part 111 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 is in force in the district.

Over:-

SECTION F. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Only 3 notifications of infectious disease were received during the year. All related to measles and occurred in the children of one family (two males aged 2 and 6 years and one female aged 10 months). It is a likely surmise that their isolation from other children had been complete because they had the disease in April and no further cases occurred among neighbouring children during the year despite the fact that these other children showed their susceptibility by succumning to the disease early in 1958.

RODENT CONTROL.

Number of visits by Rodent Control Officer in Montgomery Borough during the year 109.
Number of treatments carried out 35.